

REMARKS

Claims 1-4 are all the claims that have been examined in the pending application. Claim 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Shinichi (JP Publication No. 2000-114367). Claims 2-4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Shinichi (JP publication No. 2000-114367) in view of Ellingboe et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,114,250).

By this amendment, Applicants are amending claims 1, 2 and 4, and adding claims 19 and 20. Claims 5-18 remain withdrawn.

Preliminary Matters

Applicants thank the Examiner for initialing the references filed with the Information Disclosure Statement filed on October 1, 2004.

Applicants also thank the Examiner for accepting the drawings filed on October 1, 2004.

Applicants further thank the Examiner for acknowledging Applicants' claim to foreign priority and for confirming that the certified copy of the priority document was received.

Claim Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

Claim 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Shinichi (JP Publication No. 200-114367).

Claim 1, as amended, recites, in part, "wherein said organic insulating film has a plurality of modified portions facing said opening..." The Examiner argues that Shinichi teaches or suggests all of the elements of claim 1, citing paragraph [0014] and FIG. 1 as support. However, FIG. 1 of Shinichi shows an organic insulating film which contains a *single* modified portion facing an opening in the film. Therefore, Shinichi fails to teach that an organic insulating film has a *plurality* of modified portions facing said opening. Because Shinichi fails to teach all of the elements of amended claim 1, amended claim 1 is patentable over the applied art.

Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 2-4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Shinichi (JP publication No. 2000-114367) in view of Ellingboe et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,114,250).

Claims 2-4 are dependent upon amended claim 1. Because Shinichi fails to teach or suggest all of the elements of amended claim 1, and because Ellingboe fails to cure the defects noted in Shinichi, claims 2-4 are patentable at least by virtue of their dependency.

New Claims

Claims 19 and 20 are dependent from amended claim 1. Therefore, these claims are patentable at least by virtue of their dependency from claim 1.

Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

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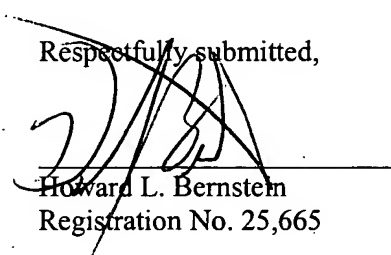
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Date: July 5, 2006

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